

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 OPIC-03 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 171510Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1314

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USCOMUSFORAZ

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0405

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS IN PONTA DELGADA

1. IN LAST SEVERAL DAYS THE AZOREAN FLAG HAS BEEN FLOWN SEVERAL TIMES IN SMALL TOWNS OUTSIDE PONTA DELGADA. THE MILITARY HAS REMOVED THE FLAGS. ON OCT 16 A LARGE AZOREAN FLAG WAS HOISTED NEAR PONTA DELGADA AND CAUSED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT. THAT NIGHT SOLDIERS IN MUFTI REMOVED THE FLAG AND IN PROCESS DETAINED ONE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO TRIED TO PREVENT THEM. AS RESULT GROUPS OF PEOPLE PROTESTED IN FRONT OF MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AND SOMEONE SET FIRE TO THE CAR BELONGING TO THE TROOP'S COMMANDING OFFICER. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF SCUFFLES BETWEEN THE UNIFORMED AND UNUNIFORMED TROOPS.

2. THE MILITARY HAS INCREASED SECURITY IN PONTA DELGADA. TROOPS GUARDED THE RADIO STATION NIGHT OF OCTOBER 16.

3. LOCAL CDS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CRITIZING MINISTRY OF INTERNAL ADMIN-

ISTRATION'S COMMUNIQUE AND REITERATING THE CALL FOR A REFERENDUM. THE

CDS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT FLA, IT FAVORS FLA IF IT REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE AND THEIR INTERESTS. LOCAL PRESS HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL
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ARTICLES STRONGLY PROTESTING THE MINISTRY'S COMMUNIQUE AND HAS PUBLISHED

FLA'S RESPONSE TO THE GOP COMMUNIQUE. THE PAMPHLET CONTAINING FLA'S PROGRAM IS NOW OPENLY DISPLAYED FOR SALE IN SEVERAL LOCAL COFFEE HOUSES.

4. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERE HAS BECOME TENSE AGAIN IN PONTA DELGADA AND RUMORS ARE BEGINNING TO CIRCULATE THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN. THE FLYING OF AZOREAN FLAG PUTS THE MILITARY IN A DIFFICULT POSITION

THE FLAG IS LEGALLY RECOGNIZED AS THE FLAG OF AZOREAN AUTONOMY BUT TODAY REPRESENTS INDEPENDENCE. THE FLAG'S OWNERS THUS CAN ALWAYS PROTEST

THAT IT IS LEGAL. IF THE REPORTS OF SCUFFLE BETWEEN TROOPS ARE TRUE, THAT INDICATES THE ARMY HERE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON ITS MEN. PFEIFLE

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